

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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May 4, 2004

FROM: **PATRICK J. MEAD**, Interim Director
Department of Public Works - Solid Waste Management Division

SUBJECT: **PURCHASE ORDERS FOR ADDITIONAL ASBESTOS TESTING AND ASBESTOS
ABATEMENT**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Ratify the action of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors approving increases to the following purchase orders (POs) for additional asbestos testing and asbestos abatement on qualified properties impacted by the Old and Grand Prix fires.

<u>Company</u>	<u>P.O. No.</u>	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>Requested Amount</u>
Allstate Services	D2019	\$25,000	\$60,000
Altec Testing and Engineering	D2018	\$25,000	\$60,000
Ambient Environmental Inc.	D2020	\$25,000	\$60,000
Pacific Cascade	D2017	\$25,000	\$60,000
Ned M. Reber/Protocol Consult	D2016	\$25,000	\$60,000
Flores Sierra Contractors	D2178	\$25,000	\$131,000
TOTAL		\$150,000	\$431,000

2. Approve use of Environmental Mitigation Funds, up to a total of \$431,000, to finance the Solid Waste Management Division's asbestos testing and abatement costs associated with the above POs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: In the aftermath of the Old and Grand Prix fires, the County developed a plan to facilitate widespread cost-effective debris removal from impacted properties. Pursuant to that plan, on April 6, 2004, the Board approved contracts with two contractors for debris removal from qualified properties within the County's unincorporated area damaged by the Grand Prix and Old Fires.

The Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) is charged with coordinating the debris removal program. As such, surveys for "visible" asbestos were required per South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) protocol prior to debris removal. To comply with the regulations, SWMD conducted an informal bidding process for Certified Asbestos Consultants to conduct an asbestos survey of approximately 750 fire-damaged properties. Due to the size of the workload, and compressed timeline required, five purchase orders, in the amount of \$25,000 each, were issued to companies to test for asbestos. These companies identified properties that contained "suspected" and "known" asbestos-containing materials.

SWMD recommends that the five Certified Asbestos Consultants (listed above), who performed the initial sampling, conduct a "Phase II" assessment to sample all properties to determine the level of asbestos present, if any. Properties identified to contain suspect or known asbestos materials, will undergo additional sampling to separate non-asbestos material, thereby reducing the amount of material that requires special asbestos handling. If further sampling is not conducted, then all properties may need to be cleaned up by a certified asbestos abatement subcontractor. This alternative approach would significantly

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increase the cost of the project for both the County and its constituents. SWMD recommends using these five companies because they performed the original site surveys, are familiar with the areas, and are familiar with the contents of each property.

In addition to the asbestos testing, Flores Sierra Contractors, an asbestos abatement contractor, has been providing asbestos abatement services to volunteer groups that are clearing properties owned by uninsured, low income, elderly and disabled owners. SWMD issued a purchase order to Flores Sierra after conducting a competitive bid process to provide services to approximately 20 homes. A number of these properties contain asbestos and requires removal by a licensed abatement contractor. Flores Sierra initially proposed to treat the asbestos material and ash in and around asbestos-containing materials. However, after beginning work on April 20, 2004, on properties in the Del Rosa area, Flores Sierra found that several of these properties had asbestos containing materials so mixed and co-mingled that the entire project had to be treated as an asbestos abatement project, therefore nearly quintupling the original tonnage estimates. SWMD and SWMD's contract debris monitor, PBS&J reviewed these sites and concurs with the contractor's assessment. Flores Sierra notified SWMD on April 20, 2004 that there are several other homes in the Cedar Glen area and one in the Crestline area that also contain an extensive amount of mixed, co-mingled debris, similar to those in the Del Rosa area. Information from the cleanup in Del Rosa provided more accurate tonnage than the original estimates. It is estimated that the initial cost projection will increase from \$25,000 to \$131,000 for cleanup and disposal of the approximately 20 homes. SWMD is recommending that the Purchase Order for Flores Sierra Contractors be increased to cover additional unexpected cost.

On March 30, 2004, the Board approved an amended Environmental Mitigation Fund (EMF) Use Policy to allow funding for the County's portion of costs associated with debris cleanup in the aftermath of a locally declared disaster and approved expenditures up to \$500,000 of EMF monies for the SWMD's portion of disaster debris cleanup costs resulting from the Old and the Grand Prix Fires. Approval of this board item for asbestos testing and asbestos abatement will increase the amount of approved expenditures by \$431,000 to a total of up to \$931,000.

On April 27, 2004, the Chairman of the Board provided SWMD with authorization to increase the amounts of the POs. Approval of this item will ratify the action of the Chairman and allow the increase in the amount of the purchase orders to cover the cost of additional asbestos testing and asbestos abatement on qualified properties impacted by the Old and Grand Prix fires and approve the use of up to \$431,000 of EMF monies to finance the cost of these POs.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by the Purchasing Department (Aurelio De La Torre, Director, 387-2074) on April 27, 2004; the County Counsel's Office (Deputy County Counsel Robert L. Jocks, 387-5435) on April 26, 2004; and County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst, 387-4635) on April 25, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of this item would increase the amount of the aforementioned POs by \$281,000. This will bring the total of the six POs to \$431,000. Funds for this action are available in the SWMD's Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Operations Budget – Fund: EAA Dept: SWM Org: OPS Appr: 200 Object: 2445. SWMD's operations budget would be reimbursed by the EMF monies in accordance with Recommendation No. 2. SWMD will also seek reimbursement from FEMA and the State to pay for this asbestos testing and abatement.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item, concurs with the Department's proposal, and recommends this action because the additional asbestos testing and abatement is necessary and the most cost-effective approach for clearing debris from properties impacted by the Old and Grand Prix fires.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: All.

PRESENTER: Peter H. Wulfman, 386-8703.

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